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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1911.

President Taft's Return.

President Taft returns to the National Capital to-day after a lengthy absence, during which he has traveled to the other end of the republic. The people of Washington accord him a hearty welcome upon his safe return.

Whether this particular journey was inspired by political motives or not, the fact remains that it is a wise and proper thing for the President to visit every section of the country as frequently as possible. He is the head of the nation and in a republic like ours it is a good thing to have the President closely in touch with the people. They cannot all come to Washington to see him, but he can visit them, and it is a part of his duty so to do. It gives them a more intimate relation with the government when the President becomes for them a visible entity and not a printed name.

The cordial reception everywhere accorded the President must naturally have been gratifying to him. It has demonstrated the respect for him and his office and is a pleasant memory, now that the miles of travel have been ended. It has not been altogether a pleasure trip, because the demands upon him every day have been incessant and wearing; but none the less he has benefited by personal association with the people who enjoy with him the proud distinction of being American citizens.

Shakespeare.

The eternal discussion as to the place which Shakespeare occupies in literature has been revived through the address delivered by Ambassador Jusserand before the British Academy. The task assigned to the eminent Frenchman was all the more delicate because of the predilection which he might naturally be supposed to entertain for Corneille, Racine, Moliere, and other eminent French dramatists. Nevertheless, he displayed true diplomacy in the tactful way in which he portrayed Shakespeare's great qualities, analyzing with great skill the characteristics which have made the great playwright one of the literary wonders of the world.

For, after all has been said, Shakespeare still towers mountain high over all who have essayed to present human life and history upon the stage. It is true that he was guilty of anachronisms, and that frequently his historical assertions were not correct. It is also true that in the mass of matter which emanated from his pen there was much that is not lost by excision. The text which has been preserved in the acting versions of his dramas, however, is sufficiently true to life, is permeated so thoroughly with dramatic interest and is so artistically written, that it still holds closest attention when presented upon the stage. If in dramatic literature, as in the natural world, the survival of the fittest is the final test, then surely the question of Shakespeare's place is already decided. Ben Jonson has been forgotten, and "Romeo and Juliet" is a love story which will never die. "The Merchant of Venice" is a drama for all time, as appealing in this twentieth century as in the days of Elizabeth. It does not matter that Shakespeare's characters are sometimes stilted and unnatural in their conversation or that they say and do things which ordinary people might not say or do. The fact is that they are not ordinary people, but are invested by great genius with unusual qualities. Viewed from this standpoint, Mr. Jusserand's solitary criticism that Shakespeare wrote mainly for the groundlings has not been well-founded. He never descended, for instance, to the level of day in "The Beggar's Opera," and even today, when the average of intelligence is much higher than it was in Shakespeare's time, his plays can neither be fully understood nor appreciated by the ignorant. He is always human, but he is not illiterate; he is dramatic, but he is not the heart-thriller which appeals to the under-standing.

Italy and the "Dreibund."

There is one part of the aggressive policy of Italy in Tripoli that has not been generally discussed in the American press. It was casually mentioned in The Washington Herald when the hostilities began, and has attracted a good deal of attention in German official circles. This is the effect of the war upon the Triple Alliance, and, in consequence, on the rather delicate political balance of the whole of Europe. That alliance embraces Germany, the dominant power—Austria-Hungary, and Italy. The term of its second renewal expires in 1914. The substance of the agreement between these powers is that they will come to the aid of each other in case of attack upon any one of them. It is, in fact, an alliance to counter-balance the less definite treaty between Great Britain, France, and Russia.

Inspiration he felt short of being a genius is the limit of absurdity.

With all his indecencies, his inaccuracies, and his occasional lapses into the commonplace, he stands alone upon a pedestal of greatness, and Mr. Jusserand's tribute, though it is made by a Frenchman, to an Englishman, is the verdict of the world.

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Convict Labor and Good Roads.

Alexandria has interrupted the usual occupation of a voodoo doctor and put him to work upon the roads. He will now be useful to the community.

This solitary instance is in line with a movement now gaining force throughout the country and which seeks to utilize prison or workhouse labor in the construction of thoroughfares. The conditions which have been disclosed in Virginia, where it is charged that convicts working for a shoe manufacturing firm are deprived of liberty which they might gain through good behavior, in order that the contractors may have the full benefit of their labor; or in Georgia, where the stockades are a scandal and disgrace; or in Missouri, where the manufacture of cotton waists and blouses by convicts has deprived workingmen of honest employment, have not escaped the attention of those who are studying sociological facts. There is a very general sentiment throughout the country that while the man in prison ought not to be allowed to remain in idleness, he ought not to be taken bread out of the mouths of honest men.

It so happens that the building of good roads is one phase of industry that does not compete with skilled workmen and can hardly be said to displace even unskilled labor. It is work which the community would not do unless well supplied with funds; and even though there be money to pay for the building of good roads, there is always sufficient roadway unimproved to utilize the services of the men who are serving time. Consequently, the occupant of the jail or the workhouse can be made to labor with benefit to the State and yet without harm to any other human being.

It is for this reason that the use of convicts upon roads is being urged by those who regard the welfare of humanity from every point of view.

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The Massacres in China.

It is a sad fact in history that the partitioning of nations must be accompanied by bloodshed and human woe. The story which comes from China is history repeating itself. It reminds one of the days of the French revolution, when the streets of Paris were red with gore.

But the analogy does not hold good to the extent that in China it is the people slaughtering the aristocrats. On the contrary, it is the imperial troops who have cast mercy to the winds and are cutting a wide swath of death and devastation. They are filled with a demon-like fury and demonstrating that under the thin veneer of civilization they are savages at heart. It is no wonder that revolution has taken possession of the masses, if imperialism is represented by the army which, by its thirst for human blood, has shocked the world.

The seething maelstrom in which China is now engulfed must, however, soon subside. The people, who are struggling for self-government, will eventually be successful, even though they pay a fearful price for liberty. When that time comes, they must themselves demonstrate that they are of different clay from those who now find a fierce pleasure in wholesale slaughter. They must provide a stable and humane government along civilized lines, and in this work of reconstruction men like Wu Ting-fang will be of great assistance. He knows the Occident as well as any man in China, and his hand will stay the revenge which will naturally find expression against the imperial army. Unless he and the other leaders of the revolution hold in check the angry passions of the infuriated people, the new government of China will receive no sympathy from other nations.

It will be difficult to overcome the resentment which the murderous course of the imperial army has created, but if the revolution is to be a success it must be done.

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with her allies. The Mediterranean is far more under the control of France or Great Britain than of Germany or Austria, and unless either of those powers had been agreeable, Italy would hardly have dared to undertake a fight which makes it necessary to transport soldiers and supplies across that stretch of water. Besides, there is the old but by no means diminished jealousy between Austria and Italy as to which shall ultimately be lord of the Adriatic, the former still retaining the upper hand, owing to her Dalmatian and Illyric water front and easily accessible harbors, that, of course, continues to keep Italy from any desire to interfere in Austria's Balkan policy and ultimate desire to get to Saloniki and the Euxine.

To all intents and purposes, the Triple Alliance has ceased to be "triple." Having accepted the good will of France and Great Britain as to the passage of her fleet to Africa, Italy could never engage in a war with either of these countries. It cuts away the foundation of the feeling that has grown up in Germany that that power was secured in the strength of the Triple Alliance.

The carrot-top and peeled-onion exhibits at the food show have been great.

An election must be very one-sided when only one party can claim to find it encouraging.

The chronic ailment of those about to cross the Atlantic in balloons is procrastination.

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It is generally stated that Tammany won by the skin of its teeth, but it must be remembered that all of Tammany has awfully thick skin.

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No wonder Dr. Wiley admired the candy sausage. There was no benediction of soda in them.

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It would seem to be much safer to predict a landslide next year on the Panama Canal.

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The hotel managers of Philadelphia are going to try to abolish tipping. The results of the reform victory are appearing promptly.

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It is altogether appropriate that Uncle Joe should wear ducks when he goes paddling in the Panama Canal.

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People who go automobiling with surgeons at least have a chance to have their injuries treated promptly.

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An artist in New York, having failed in his profession, has taken to forgery. This might be called drawing money on his paper.

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Mr. Hearst intimates that the stripes on the Tammany tiger should be horizontal.

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Marne Henry Watterson tells the President how to run the Presidency, but what the President wants to know is how to run for it again successfully.

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How can it be said that Washington is not a manufacturing city when so many stamps, pieces of paper money, and laws are manufactured here every year?

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A LITTLE NONSENSE.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

A SMALL SONG.

A SMALL SONG.

Sing a song of brown November!

Sing a song of brown November!

Introduce into your song

Introduce into your song

Falling leaf and dying ember

Falling leaf and dying ember

Right along

Right along

This is all I can remember,

This is all I can remember,

The enough for a review,

The enough for a review,

Since the rhymes for brown November

Since the rhymes for brown November

Are so few.

Are so few.

Uncle Pennywise Says:

Uncle Pennywise Says:

Where you see a home without a wood-

Where you see a home without a wood-

shed, there you are apt to find a spoiled

shed, there you are apt to find a spoiled

youngster or two.

youngster or two.

Doing Her Part.

Doing Her Part.

"Will you thread a needle for me?"

"Will you thread a needle for me?"

I want to sew on a few buttons."

I want to sew on a few buttons."

"Why, certainly. There you are. Now

"Why, certainly. There you are. Now

you can sew on your buttons while I go

you can sew on your buttons while I go

to the bridge club. Sometimes I wonder

to the bridge club. Sometimes I wonder

how you managed before you were married."

how you managed before you were married."

A Pasty Scheme.

A Pasty Scheme.

"Tommy, if you'll saw some wood, I'll

"Tommy, if you'll saw some wood, I'll

tell you what I'll do."

tell you what I'll do."

"What's that, dad?"

"What's that, dad?"

"I'll let you have the sawdust to play

"I'll let you have the sawdust to play

circus with."

circus with."

The Situation.

The Situation.

Are horses still in use? Why, certainly!

Are horses still in use? Why, certainly!

Some use of them is made.

Some use of them is made.

However, not enough to hurt

However, not enough to hurt

The automobile trade.

The automobile trade.

Bark and Squirrel.

Bark and Squirrel.

"Nothing lost here but the squeal," declared

"Nothing lost here but the squeal," declared

the pork packer. "Are you as economical

the pork packer. "Are you as economical

in conducting your business?"

in conducting your business?"

"Just about," answered the visitor.

"Just about," answered the visitor.

"I'm in the lumber business. We waste

"I'm in the lumber business. We waste

nothing but the bark."

nothing but the bark."

Turkey To-day.

Turkey To-day.

"What's the latest at your boarding-

"What's the latest at your boarding-

house?"

house?"

"We are trying to get the parlor so-

"We are trying to get the parlor so-

cialists to extend their principles to the

socialists to extend their principles to the

dining-room and give everybody an equal

dining-room and give everybody an equal

chance at the white meat."

chance at the white meat."

It's Different on the Stage.

It's Different on the Stage.

"Then you are somewhat disappointed

"Then you are somewhat disappointed

in society?"

in society?"

"I must acknowledge that I am. I have

"I must acknowledge that I am. I have

been to eight casts and five receptions,

been to eight casts and five receptions,

but I haven't heard an epigram yet."

but I haven't heard an epigram yet."

Getting Away from Father.

Getting Away from Father.

From the New York Tribune.

From the New York Tribune.

The German crown prince seems to

The German crown prince seems to

have shown more frankness than discretion

have shown more frankness than discretion

in his demonstrations of sympathy

in his demonstrations of sympathy

with the opposition to the chancellor in

with the opposition to the chancellor in

the Reichstag, but discretion came in

the Reichstag, but discretion came in

the form when next day he went up in a

the form when next day he went up in a

balloon to avoid parental wrath.

balloon to avoid parental wrath.

Advice as to Old Ricks.

Advice as to Old Ricks.

From the Omaha Bee.

From the Omaha Bee.

One Washington man goes together for

One Washington man goes together for

burning the former's wife and children.

burning the former's wife and children.

Let every man buy his own wife's

Let every man buy his own wife's

sweaters.

sweaters.

PERFECT FIGURE
IN REACH OF ALLEnglish Woman Comes to
Inculcate New Ideas.

New York, Nov. 11.—If the American women would have a figure—not a tubelike figure, but a real figure, with hips, which is the only kind worth having—she must not sit and stand as she does now; she must throw her corsets away and she must not be too lazy to take a little exercise.

This is the belief of Miss Christian Miller, who has come all the way from the British Isles to preach it to fashionable fat women at the Waldorf-Astoria. Miss Miller is a statuesque woman in the early '30s, whose proportions are the very best advertisement of her ideas. "American women don't know how to stand properly and they're badly," she said today. "Those tube dresses, now so fashionable make a woman who has not learned the gentle art of poise and posture most unattractive. You should poise your body over the balls of your feet and keep the knees stiff. In this way you will avoid making your figure lopsided."

"So many women slump when they stand, and then they all squashed up. Take exercise every day and improve your temper while adding greatly to your good looks. Exercise will get rid of the box-like figure so many American women have because they are too lazy to exercise. They lace themselves into long corsets to get rid of the fat and look perfectly square. Exercise will give you a slender waist and keep you flat below the belt."

"The perfect figure cannot be narrowed to a certain rigid proportion," continued the apostle of beauty, "but generally speaking, a woman's shoulders should be broad, her waist small, and her hips natural—otherwise large. That is the way nature makes her."

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